

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 147  
ANSWERED ON TUESDAY, THE 29<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2016**

**ACTION AGAINST COAI FOR LOBBYING**

**QUESTION**

\*147. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that lobbying in India is prohibited and there are no orders permitting lobbying by any group;

(b) if so, what are the reasons that Government has allowed the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) to operate as lobbyist on behalf of Bharti Airtel, Vodafone and Idea Cellular; and

(c) whether Government has any plans to overhaul the regulation and processes of lobbying by COAI and order an investigation under Societies Registration Act, 1860 for indulging in unfair trade practices and violation of regulations set up by the Supreme Court of India recently and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS  
(JAITLEY)

(SHRI ARUN

(a) to (c):- A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

\*\*\*\*\*

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN ANSWER TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED  
QUESTION NO. 147 FOR 29.11.2016 REGARDING ACTION AGAINST COAI FOR  
LOBBYING**

(a) to (c) There is no provision in the Societies Registration Act, 1860 or the Companies Act, 1956/ 2013 relating to lobbying, and there are no proposals to introduce any provisions to regulate lobbying in either of these two Acts.

The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) is an association of cellular mobile telephone Service Providers registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860. Department of Telecommunications, Government of India, which is entrusted with the responsibility of promotion of private investment in telecommunications, has not allowed COAI to operate as lobbyist on behalf of Bharti Airtel, Vodafone and Idea Cellular.

There is no proposal to cause an investigation under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 by the Ministry.

\*\*\*\*\*